

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4309

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor
1100 Congress Ave.
Room 2S.1
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Mobile Coronavirus Testing Sites for Vulnerable Communities in Texas

Dear Governor Abbott:

We write to you today to communicate the urgent needs of the vulnerable communities in the state of Texas, as we combat coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Texas is projected to peak in the number of COVID-19 cases in the upcoming two weeks¹. To prepare for the upcoming crisis, we need to increase the number of testing facilities available.

Specifically, we urge you to make mobile testing sites more accessible to vulnerable communities. The pervasive nature of this virus is disproportionately affecting communities of color due to higher rates of certain underlying health conditions and increased challenges accessing proper health care². Vulnerable communities such as African Americans have been one of the main targets of this virus. In cities such as Houston, nearly 60% of COVID-19 related deaths were of African Americans³.

These testing sites will expedite the testing process and help us prevent further spread of this virus in the communities that are struggling the most during this pandemic. Although many states have launched mobile testing sites, a majority of the states still need more sites to protect their most exposed and vulnerable communities. Therefore, it is critical that the testing needs of these vulnerable communities be addressed now.

We thank you for considering this urgent request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Al Green", enclosed within a green oval.

Al Green
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sylvia Garcia".

Sylvia Garcia
Member of Congress

¹ <http://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america>

² <https://connect.kff.org/>

³ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/04/07/coronavirus-is-infecting-killing-black-americans-an-alarmingly-high-rate-post-analysis-shows/?arc404=true>